Felling of trees by Commercial Plantation lease holders in Haridwar

917. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Haridwar, Commercial Plantation lease holders are cutting trees and smuggling them out under the guise of removing waste wood and roots from the leased lands; and

(b) if so, the action taken to protect the forest cover on banks of Ganga in Haridwar to check environmental disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Forest area in Chhattisgarh

†918. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an estimation of the existing forest area of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of increase or decrease of area in the present estimate as compared to the previous one; and

(d) the measures being taken to increase the forest area of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The forest cover in Chhattisgarh as per assessment by Forest Survey of India in 2001 is 56,448 sq. kms.

(c) The forest cover in Chhattisgarh as per assessment by Forest Survey of India in 1999 was 56,693 sq. kms.

(d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme, which aims at decentralized and participatory development of forests, through a two-tier

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.